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WAUKEGAN -- The cleanup of polluted Waukegan Harbor received a major funding boost with the injection of \$1.4 million in federal funds for the replacement of a water line, U.S. Rep. Mark Kirk (R-Ill.) announced Thursday.

"Replacement of the water line is a critical first step to what will truly unlock Waukegan's economic potential: the cleanup of Waukegan Harbor," Kirk said Thursday.

The water line, which sits too high to allow a complete dredging of the harbor, will be replaced by a line with more capacity, he said. Officials said the water line is about 75 years old. The new line will also be buried deeper, allowing for a cleansing dredging, Kirk said.

The water-line project, estimated to cost about \$2.8 million, will require \$1.4 million from the city to match the \$1.4 million from the Department of Commerce,, a spokesman for Kirk said.

Replacement of the water line will take about six weeks after a contract is awarded.

Waukegan has been in talks with local, state and federal agencies over the cleanup of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) from the site.